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Wednesday, July 28, 2010

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Amanda Maduro and Anouk Eman excell in duet synchronize swimming at Mayaguez



Aruba's synchronized swimming team performs during the Technical Routine Final of the XXI Central American & Caribbean Games in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico on July 27, 2010.



Anouk Eman and Amanda Maduro perform in the women's duet Technical Routine Final.

Entering the second week of CAC, Central American and Caribbean games held in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, it was the turn of our representatives to compete in syn-

chronize swimming. The duet, Amanda Maduro and Anouk Eman competed in the first event, the Technical routine duet. They did a good job, and delivered the best results

ever in synchronized swimming history of Aruba. They finished in fourth place, leaving behind countries such as the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The duets of Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela got the best results, but taking into account that Venezuela and Colombia were invited countries to the games, which are for Central American countries and the Caribbean, this is a big achievement for Amanda and Anouk.

The team spirit is high, which is a big push for the other events awaiting them.

On Friday, Amanda and Anouk will compete in the freestyle choreography duets and on Saturday will end the synchro competition with the freestyle team event.

The team consists of Anouk Eman, Carondina Leijdekkers, Amanda Maduro, Anna Posner, Nikita Pablo, Janelle Flemming, Saskia Franken and Kiara van Trikt. Lots of success to you all!

## Red Cross Aruba volunteers invited to assist at Vierdaagse, Nijmegen



Recently, the Aruba Red Cross started an interchange program with the Dutch Red Cross to share ideas, experiences and knowledge. This offers a great opportunity to Red Cross Aruba as they can make good use of big events in The Netherlands and return home with more knowledge and experience. The Dutch volunteers can also visit Aruba and gain a different type of experience.

At the Vierdaagse the Aruban volunteers got the opportunity to give first aid during the Vierdaagse, Nijmegen. The International Four Day Marches Nijmegen (or Vierdaagse) is the largest marching event in the world. It is organized every year in Nijmegen in mid-July as a means of promoting sport and exercise.

After evaluation Red Cross Aruba chose Dionisio Richardson, Eldrick Hasham, Reginald Tromp y Jedrick Perez to represent Aruba in

this world renowned event. Before this they followed an intensive course in Sports Massage given by Mr. Candido Tromp.

At the Vierdaagse the Aruban Red Cross volunteers assisted participants in tents so they could continue their walk. In all it was a great experience and they surely gained a lot of knowledge which they can now share with their colleagues on Aruba.

Red Cross Aruba wishes to thank Dionisio, Eldrick, Reggie and Jedrick for the great job done in the Netherlands.

Photos depict the Aruban Red Cross giving their assistance at the Vierdaagse.



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Wyclef Jean won't rule out Haiti presidential run

Delta Airlines expands service to Aruba La Guardia to receive additional weekly service in the winter season

NEW YORK (AFP) – Haitian hip hop star and humanitarian activist Wyclef Jean did not rule out running for president amid rumors yesterday that he may stand in this year's elections in the quake-hit Caribbean nation.

"Wyclef's commitment to his homeland and its youth is boundless and he will remain its greatest supporter regardless of whether he is part of the government moving forward," his family said in a statement.

"At this time, Wyclef Jean has not announced his intent to run for Haitian president. If and when a decision is made, media will be alerted immediately."

The statement responded to a report in Canada's French-language Le Droit newspaper and rumors in Haiti that the former Fugees frontman is preparing paperwork for a bid in the upcoming election.

Current President Rene Preval is barred by the constitution from seeking a new term in the elections scheduled for November 28.

Preval's mandate expires in February 2011, but several parties have accused him of seeking to stay in office, adding political tensions to the economic and humanitarian troubles afflicting the impoverished country.

Jean, who lives in New York, is founder of the humanitarian Yele Haiti Foundation and has played a prominent role in securing aid after the January 12 earthquake leveled much of the capital city Port-au-Prince.

Widespread allegations of financial mismanagement were leveled at the organization during the crisis.

The quake killed 250,000 people and has left 1.5 million homeless, causing a huge humanitarian disaster in the poorest country in the Americas.

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has received word from Delta Airlines that as of December 18, 2010, through April 30, 2011, air service to Aruba will be expanded with weekly service from La Guardia airport. Service will be on Saturdays only and Delta plans to utilize B737-800 aircraft comfortably seating 16 passengers in business and 144 in economy. The flights will conveniently leave New York's La Guardia airport at 10:36 a.m. and arrive in Aruba at 5:30 p.m.

Delta Airlines' expansion of service to Aruba underscores AAA's focus on diversification within our gateways and believes that Delta's service perfectly compliments Continental Airlines' service from La Guardia. Continental utilizes the same type of aircraft and arrives earlier in the afternoon at 1:19 p.m.

"We are delighted with the enhancement of Delta Airlines' commitment to Aruba. New York is an extremely important market for the destination and service from all three airports is vital to our success in the northeast area" said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA. "We look forward to welcoming the first of many flights from La Guardia by Delta Airlines"

**20 arrested in Brazil in Interpol pedophile picture swoop**

BRASILIA, Brasil (AFP) - Brazilian police, acting in cooperation with German counterparts through Interpol, arrested 20 people yesterday in a swoop against individuals possessing and making images of pedophile abuse, officials said.

Some 400 officers carrying out search warrants against 81 suspects raided addresses in 57 Brazilian cities, a police spokesman told AFP.

Of the 20 people arrested, six were believed to have carried out sexual abuse against the children shown in the images.

"From the seized images, it can be seen that the victims were family members or close to the suspects," the spokesman said.

The head of a special police unit combating child pornography on the Internet, Stenio Santos Souza, said the violence in some of the images was shocking.

"We have obtained video images involving children and at times babies being abused by adults that make us think that there is less humanity in the world than before," he told reporters.

The operation was started a year ago in Germany on the basis of police action there that uncovered an online group trading sexually violent pedophile images around the world.

It was dubbed "Persian Rug," police said, "in allusion to one of the shared videos that showed a six-year-old minor being sexually abused with a Persian rug in the background."

**Court lifts supervision order on teen solo sailor Laura Dekker**

MIDDELBURG, The Netherlands -- Middelburg family court has lifted its supervision order on 14-year-old Laura Dekker, clearing the way for the teenager to start her solo round-the-world sailing trip.

The court said it could not determine whether the two-year voyage would damage the girl's social and emotional development, as the child protection council claimed.

The court said it is now up to the girl's parents to decide whether or not she can make the two-year voyage. Her mother had been opposed to the trip but earlier this month wrote a plea in a national newspaper for her daughter to be allowed to go.

At last week's court hearing, the child protection council said it wanted Laura to remain under its guardianship, but social workers in Utrecht, where the girl lives, disagreed.

The social workers said Dekker had met the conditions for making the trip which were made when she was first put under court supervision last year.

These include increasing her experience of solo sailing, taking a first aid course and learning to cope with sleep deprivation.

Dekker's lawyer said after the ruling that the girl plans to start her round the world trip within two weeks.

She hopes to become the youngest person to sail solo round the globe.

Laura Dekkers

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## Nicolas Sarkozy congratulates Desi Bouterse

PARIS, France - French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday congratulated Desi Bouterse for his victory in the presidential elections in Suriname.

Sarkozy is the first European government known to congratulate Bouterse for his presidential win.

The Netherlands refuses to congratulate the former army

chief.

The former commander must serve a eleven year jail term in the Netherlands for drug smuggling.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paramaribo acknowledge congratulations, French media reported. Sarkozy said he hopes that both countries will maintain good relations in the coming years.

## Drug Awareness Day campaign starts off in San Nicolas, now en route to Oranjestad

### Adopt an Addict awareness day deemed a huge success

## The Netherlands destroying 17 million swine flu vaccine doses

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands -- The Netherlands is destroying more than 17 million unused doses of swine flu vaccine that were nearing their expiry date and that it could not resell, the health ministry said yesterday.

"We have started destroying" the vaccines, health ministry spokeswoman Inge Freriksen told AFP. "In the coming months, 17.8 million doses will be destroyed because the expiry date is approaching."

The Dutch government bought 31 million doses of vaccine against the A(H1N1) virus at the height of the global swine flu outbreak last year. About 11 million were used.

Some 2,156 people infected with swine flu were hospitalised in the Netherlands between April and December last year and 53 died.

In November the Dutch government said it was putting 19 million doses on sale to other countries, but managed to offload only 257,000.

The government will keep 2.2 million doses with a later expiry date "in case the virus returns in one form or another", Freriksen said.

The World Health Organisation declared a swine flu pandemic on June 11, 2009, and says it has since claimed some 18,311 lives worldwide.

The Council of Europe recently called for a probe into the WHO's handling of the outbreak, which it said caused unjustified scares and waste of public money.



On Sunday, the Adopt an Addict foundation held an awareness day in San Nicolas. The event was held in the St. Maarten street. The idea is to visit all districts on Aruba, which kicked off in San Nicolas. There was a bazaar where people could buy goods at very attractive prices, and the kitchen had an extensive menu of delicious platters.

The aim of this event was to get the necessary funds to enable the foundation to continue with its work of helping

drug addicts. A large group has already been sent to the Dominican Republic for a treatment of 18 months or more.

During the event the Adopt an Addict volunteers were present to give a helping hand. Those with family members with a drug problem had the opportunity to talk with foundation volunteers and the director of Cas Speranza to get an idea of the process of sending a drug addict abroad for rehabilitation.



# BLUE HORIZON

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Mrs. Audrey Croes-Lacle expressed her satisfaction with the support received; explaining that the problem of addiction is present in every district of Aruba. That is why the foundation is very busy looking for solutions for this problem. Many of the addicts practically live on the street, after it becomes too difficult for family members to handle them, even though they love that person very much. The foundation tries to convince addicts to seek help so they can improve their lives.

Photos give an impression of the event.



# Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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## Hop on a virtual plane and taste the world at Arawak Garden

Arawak Garden presents its Food & Wine Festival: held this Saturday, July 31, it promises to be fantastic. Just hop on a virtual plane and the world is your oyster!

For instance, take the Flight to Spain at Salt & Pepper Restaurant. You order three tapas of your choice and pay for two. Another plane takes you to Argentina at Tango Restaurant: There you can eat a fantastic BBQ dinner for \$ 24.95 per person. Tango is renowned for its excellent cuts of meat; try them at this feast.

But you have not seen it all: the Flight to New Zealand entails a special adventure at Fishes & More. This popular restaurant at Arawak Garden offers a three-course menu for just \$ 21.75 per person. Topping it off with a Flight to France is Casa Tua, where a Pizza Orientale goes for US 15. Next door Sopranos Piano Bar is surfing along: it offers special wines and a live cigar roller. There will be live music and a raffle with lots of prizes.

The Food & Wine Festival at Arawak Garden starts at 7 p.m.; entrance is free. The event is sponsored by Burger King, Romar Trading, Compra, Pepia Est and Aruba Wine And Dine.

Arawak Garden is located in the high rise area across from the Occidental Resort.

### ARAWAK GARDENS PRESENTS

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Arawak Gardens is located in the High Rise Hotel area across from the Occidental Hotel - J.E. Trausquin Blvd. 370-A  
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## Yoko Ono opposes parole for John Lennon's killer

NEW YORK CITY – Yoko Ono will again oppose the release of the man who nearly 30 years ago killed her husband, former Beatle John Lennon, and who comes up for parole next month, her lawyer said.

Ono has consistently opposed parole for Mark David Chapman and has again sent a letter to the parole board, her lawyer, Peter Shukat, told the Daily News.

"Her position has not changed," Shukat said in an article published yesterday.

Lennon was shot to death on December 8, 1980, outside the famed Dakota apartment building just west of Central Park as he and Ono returned home from a recording session.

Chapman -- now 55 and serving a 20-years-to-life sentence for the slaying -- is scheduled to be interviewed by a three-member parole board panel during the week of August 9. It will be his sixth bid for parole.

Shukat refused to say whether Ono's most recent letter to the board is the same one she has submitted every two years since Chapman first became eligible for parole in 2000.

In that letter, Ono wrote that

if Chapman is released, "I am afraid it will bring back the nightmare, the chaos and confusion once again. Myself and John's two sons would not feel safe for the rest of our lives."

She also wrote that Chapman would not be safe if allowed back on the streets.

Due to his notoriety, Chapman is kept in a special unit apart from the upstate Attica prison's general population. He works as a porter, cleaning up offices, and assists inmates in one of the prison's law libraries.

Despite some early minor prison violations, Chapman's record has been clean since 1994, the Daily News said.

Robert Gangi, head of the prisoners' rights group, Correctional Association of America, doubts Chapman will be released because of the public outrage it would cause.

"Given that he committed a high-profile crime and he killed one of the most famous and most beloved figures literally in the world, it's highly unlikely three parole commissioners would vote to grant him release," Gangi told the News.

Lennon would have been 70 this October.

## Triple farewell at Salamander Holdings

Having served the company very well for the past few years, Candice, Mena and Charmaine are answering the call of their destiny and leaving their team-mates at Salamander Holding, with mixed emotions.

Candice Pompier, Supervisor of The Juggling Fish, is going to pursue her first love, books. She will be working at a soon-to-be-open book store, in collaboration with some close friends. Mena Thiel is moving to the Netherlands to further her studies, and develop herself professionally. Charmaine Morgan, is moving to her home island, Jamaica, to reunite with much-missed family members.

All three ladies expressed their sorrow for leaving their Salamander Family where they are loved as wonderful individuals, cherished as great sales people and appreciated as wonderful team members. As genuinely kind and generous women, they gave of themselves to the company, yet they are following their path in life, and answering to the calls of their hearts.

"We wish you all luck and success, wherever you go, and whatever you do," says Managing Director Jodi Tobman, "you will be missed."



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## Ladies Night at Garufa features Claudius Phillips



Garufa Cigar & Cocktail Lounge hosts Aruba's hottest band on Wednesdays, as the ultra lounge throws a special Ladies Night party with terrific dance music, live DJ mixing, complimentary snacks, and special bar prices all night.

As a tempting incentive for ladies, Blanca the legendary bartender makes a super martini every Wednesday, which is served to all ladies free of charge from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Pictured here, Garufa Ladies Night in Action.



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PG-13 NEW	<b>INCEPTION</b>	daily: 8:00	late show: 11:00
R	<b>UNTHINKABLE</b>	daily: 6:45	9:00 matinee: 11:15
PG NEW	<b>MONSTERS VS ALIENS</b>	daily: 4:30	late show: 11:15
PG NEW	<b>DESPICABLE ME 3D</b>	matinee: 12:00 14:15	late show: 11:15
PG	<b>THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE</b>	daily: 5:30 8:00	late show: 11:00
PG	<b>THE KARATE KID</b>	daily: 12:15 3:15	late show: 11:00
PG-13	<b>GROWN UPS</b>	daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15	late show: 11:30
PG	<b>TOY STORY 3 3D</b>	matinee: 12:00 2:30	late show: 11:30
R	<b>PREDATORS</b>	daily: 6:30 9:00	late show: 11:50
PG	<b>THE LAST AIRBENDER</b>	matinee: 1:30 6:45	late show: 11:15

#### AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13 NEW	<b>SALT</b> Starting Monday July 26TH	daily: 4:15 6:30 8:30	late show: 11:00
G	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	daily: 12:00 2:00	late show: 11:00
PG	<b>DESPICABLE ME 3D</b>	daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15	late show: 11:30
PG	<b>THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE</b>	daily: 3:45 6:15 8:45	late show: 11:15
PG	<b>THE LAST AIRBENDER</b>	daily: 7:00 9:15	late show: 11:30
PG-13	<b>GROWN UPS</b>	daily: 4:45 7:15 9:30	late show: 11:45
PG-13	<b>KNIGHT &amp; DAY</b>	matinee: 12:00 2:30	late show: 11:45
PG	<b>THE KARATE KID</b>	daily: 6:30 9:00	late show: 11:30
PG	<b>TOY STORY 3 3D</b>	matinee: 12:30 3:30	late show: 11:30
PG-13	<b>THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE</b>	daily: 4:00 6:30	late show: 11:45

**DISPICABLE ME-** Comedy/Fam: In a happy suburban neighborhood, sits a black house with a dead lawn. Unbeknownst to the neighbors, hidden beneath this home is a vast secret hideout. Surrounded by a small army of minions, we discover Gru planning the biggest heist in the history of the world. He is going to steal the moon, yes, the moon. Gru delights in all things wicked. Until the day he encounters the immense will of three little orphaned girls who look at him and see something that no one else has ever seen: a potential Dad.

## Science/Tech

# Scientists use noses to help disabled write, surf, move

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Severely disabled people may soon be able to use their noses to write, drive a wheelchair or surf the Internet, thanks to a device developed and tested by doctors in Israel.

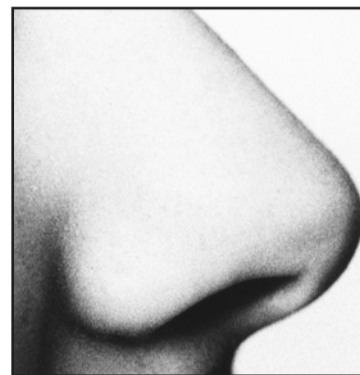
The device harnesses sniffing -- or breathing in and out through the nose -- which involves the soft palate on the roof of the mouth, according to a study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.

The soft palate is controlled by cranial nerves which are "always very well conserved following severe injury," Noam Sobel, a professor of neurobiology at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, and one of the lead authors of the study, told AFP.

"That's why eye blinks can be used to communicate with severely injured people -- because eye blinks are also controlled by cranial nerves," Sobel said.

Sobel worked with other scientists from the Weizmann Institute and the Sackler faculty of medicine at Tel Aviv University to develop a way to convert sniffs -- which the device measures as nasal pressure -- into electrical signals.

Able-bodied individuals who tested the device, which consists of a small cannula, like the tubes used in hospitals to deliver oxygen to patients, that sits at the opening of the nostrils and is connected to a small pressure



sensor, quickly learned to play computer games and write sentences by sniffing.

Encouraged by the results in the healthy trial participants, the researchers decided to test their device on quadriplegics and "locked-in" individuals -- people who are paralyzed but whose mental faculties remain intact.

One, a woman who became locked-in following a stroke around seven months earlier, had to be retaught how to sniff.

But within three weeks, she was able to use the sniff-controller to write.

She "started writing with this device at once, initially answering questions and after a few days generated her first post-stroke meaningful self-initiated communication that entailed a profound, personal message to her family," the study says.

A man who had been locked-in for 18 years and was only able to communicate by blinking one eye was able to write his name by

sniffing within 20 minutes of being fitted with the device.

And a quadriplegic woman with severe multiple sclerosis was able to write for the first time in 10 years, thanks to the sniff-controller. She also learned how to move a cursor on a computer screen by sniffing and now uses the device to surf the Internet and write emails, the study says.

Ten quadriplegics who tested the device very quickly learned to use their noses to write words, open an Internet browser, and copy and paste words into a search engine.

"This device allowed us to communicate with very severely disabled individuals, even with individuals who could not blink," Sobel told AFP.

"We had one patient who couldn't blink at all and she sends us emails now by sniffing. That's pretty moving," he said.

Encouraged by their success in helping severely disabled people to communicate, the researchers decided to push the envelope of the new technology and devised a code to allow an electric wheelchair to be driven by sniffs.

Ten healthy people easily mastered sniff-driving a wheelchair through a maze and a 30-year-old man who had been paralyzed from the neck down for six years was as good a sniff-driver as the healthy participants by his second attempt, the study says.

## Fujifilm Fires Up New EXR Cameras for Fall

The fall camera announcements are set to high-speed burst mode right now, and Fujifilm is the latest big-name company to roll out new offerings for late 2010. Among the four new FinePix point-and-shoots announced late last week, two boast the company's versatile Super CCD EXR sensor.

The newly announced FinePix F300EXR pocket megazoom offers the most eyeball-widening specs for seasoned photographers, serving up a 15x-optical-zoom lens, manual controls, and ISO sensitivity reaching up to 12800.

**A Pocket-Megazoom Beast: Fujifilm FinePix F300EXR**

The 15x-optical-zoom FinePix F300EXR will join the Samsung HZ35W as the pocket camera with the highest optical-zoom range, offering

a wide-angle-to-telephoto reach of 24mm to 360mm (F3.5 to F16.0) and gyro-controlled image stabilization in a body that's 1.3 inches deep. Fujifilm is also touting the new EXR sensor's low-light shooting and fast-focusing capabilities.

In addition to a range of scene modes, manual settings (including aperture- and shutter-priority modes), Auto, and Program modes, the 12-megapixel F300EXR's in-camera settings let you tweak the sensor to optimize it for each shot. High-Resolution mode is built for full-resolution shots, Wide Dynamic Range mode combines exposure-bracketed shots for a high dynamic range image, and High Sensitivity Low Noise mode uses pixel binning to reduce noise (and resolution) in low-light images.

It's slated for availability

in August for \$330, and it looks like a serious contender for the top tier of our pocket megazooms chart.

**Social-Minded Touchscreen EXR Camera: Fujifilm FinePix Z800EXR**

The 12-megapixel, touch-screen-operated FinePix Z800EXR offers many of the same in-camera goodies as the F300EXR, minus the aperture- and shutter-priority controls, the Pro Focus and Pro Low-Light modes, and the insanely high ISO sensitivity (the Z800EXR maxes out at ISO 3200). The Z800EXR also eschews the super-powered zoom lens, trading it in for a more-modest 5x internal zoom lens (35mm to 175mm) and a slick 0.8-inch-deep frame.

Also due in August, the FinePix Z800EXR will be available in black, red, pink, and gold for \$230.

## HEALTH

# Browse online for beautiful sperm and eggs!



**Greg Hodge, managing director of BeautifulPeople.com**

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ever worried about having an ugly baby? Fret not, a popular dating website exclusively for beautiful people has branched out to provide a fertility forum aimed at creating beautiful babies.

Criticized by some as narcissism gone mad, the project was launched in June, shortly after BeautifulPeople.com booted out 5,000 people who gained weight and were deemed too ugly to remain members.

Presented as a solution for parents who worry about having ugly children, the Fertility Forum is "like any charitable work," according to managing director Greg Hodge, a good-looking Brit.

It's "a noble cause for those going through the difficult experience of failing to conceive," he told AFP, explaining that the site gets no payment for directing donors and recipients to professional clinics.

The forum is accessed through the BeautifulPeople.com website, which was founded in 2002 in Denmark and now has a presence in 190 countries, although only pretty people need apply.

Those wanting to join submit a photo for approval by their peers -- some 600,000 people pay to be part of the network that proudly styles itself as the world's largest community of beautiful people.

"It's completely democratic -- if you secure enough positive votes, you are accepted; if not, you are shown the door," said Hodge, who

manages from Los Angeles the website launched in the United States in 2005.

In a major departure for the BeautifulPeople.com founders, even ugly people are allowed to subscribe to the new forum, browsing for attractive sperm and egg donors to ultimately improve the gene pool.

Beautiful members can post if they want to donate their genetically blessed sperm or eggs to an unattractive person or couple who wants a baby.

"Initially, we hesitated to widen the offering to non-beautiful people," explained BeautifulPeople.com founder Robert Hintze, an attractive blue-eyed Dane.

**-- Can't be selfish with attractive genes --**

"But everyone -- including ugly people -- would like to bring good-looking children in to the world, and we can't be selfish with our attractive gene pool."

When Hodge unveiled the virtual sperm and egg bank in June, he said there was obviously a massive demand for attractive donors.

"Every parent would like their child to be blessed with many fine attributes, attractiveness being one of the most sought after. For a site with members who resemble Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Angelina Jolie, you can imagine the demand."

At an interview in a Beverly Hills cafe, where most passers-by looked like Hollywood stars, Hodge side-stepped questions about ugly people and portrayed the ini-

tiative as a worthy cause to help those with fertility problems.

"We remain impartial, we're a vehicle of information that eventual donors and recipients can get, but without any link to any fertility clinic," he told AFP.

Egg donor Lisa Bluemel, 30, told AFP she initially joined BeautifulPeople.com to meet people and broaden her network, thinking that if a romance came then so much the better.

The Fertility Forum caught her attention because she had a friend who could not conceive. "I know the anguish she has gone through," she said.

Bluemel said her decision to donate eggs was nothing to do with the money and wasn't superficial or narcissistic in the slightest.

"It's a deeply emotional decision and I have given it much thought, giving a couple the gift of a new life and helping in the creation of a loving family is perhaps the most special gift of all."

"It's not about just seeking beautiful babies," she added. "Naturally intelligence, health is the most important, but why can't you try to secure all the best attributes? Who would not do that for their child?"

A Spanish woman, who had struggled for years to have children but is now eight months pregnant, pointed out that the principle behind Fertility Forum was nothing new.

"This has been done in clinics for some time, not with pictures but with a profile about donor characteristics: tall, blond, blue eyes, from a Nordic country," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Richard Paulson, a fertility expert at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California who has practiced reproductive medicine for 25 years, warned there were no guarantees of a beautiful baby.

"Making a decision about one's future partner, whether it is a marriage partner, or partner for reproduction, on the basis of information posted on a website would be naive at best," he said.

"I do not consider these types of websites to be dangerous, or threatening, but rather, simply amusing."

## Inspiration for Decoration

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## As temperature rises, so does seniors' risk of hyperthermia

Extreme summer heat can place older people at increased risk for developing the dangerous high body temperature condition known as hyperthermia, experts at the U.S. National Institute on Aging (NIA) warn.

As a result of the body's inability to regulate body temperature following exposure to very hot weather, the elderly may face a number of related health problems, including heat fatigue and exhaustion, sudden dizziness (known as "heat syncope"), heat cramps, and heat stroke (when body temperature rises above 104 degrees Fahrenheit), the agency cautions.

In a news release from the agency, experts advise that elderly individuals -- especially those coping with chronic heart, lung and/or kidney diseases, as well as

sweat gland problems and poor circulation -- should stay indoors on very hot and humid days.

If air conditioning is unavailable at home, the NIA suggests that seniors try to take advantage of cooler locales, such as senior centers, movie theaters, churches and religious facilities, social service organizations, and libraries.

Drinking a lot of fluids, while avoiding alcohol and caffeine, is also critical, as is dressing appropriately and avoiding crowds.

Anyone thought to be suffering from a heat-related condition should be brought to a shaded or air-conditioned location, and encouraged to lie down and cool off by using a sponge and cool water, or a shower or bath, if possible. If heat stroke is suspected, call 911.

## Tip: Learn to Relax



Relaxation techniques can help you reduce stress and improve sleep.

The University of Maryland Medical Center offers this list of relaxation techniques:

Progressive relaxation, which is consciously relaxing the muscles from your toes to your head and everything between.

\* Toe tensing involves lying down, pointing the toes toward the face, and holding for 10 seconds before relaxing the toes and

repeating.

\* Breathing in deeply for eight to 10 seconds, holding the breath for one to two seconds, and slowly releasing.

\* Guided imagery, which involves closing your eyes and visualizing a happy, peaceful place.

\* Quiet ears, in which you lie down with hands beneath the head, then block the ear canals with the thumbs. Hold this position for 10 seconds to 15 seconds.



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## Nilo Arcilla promoted to Resort Retail Manager



Salamander Holdings NV is proud to announce the appointment of Nilo Arcilla to Resort Manager, effective July 21st.

The company, explains Managing Director Jodi Tobman has newly created the position to reward Nilo who supervised and managed T. H. Palm & Company, with growth and promotion.

In his new role, Tobman informs, Nilo will assume responsibility for overseeing Supervisors, Team Leaders and Sales Associates at all three of Playa Linda locations sharing his leadership, dedica-

tion and knowledge with all three super teams at T.H. Palm & Company, The Juggling Fish and The Juggling Fish Swimwear Store.

"On behalf of the management team," Tobman adds, "I am pleased to share this news with the world, as Nilo worked very hard these past years to push himself to develop and learn, and as he reaches his goal to become Resort Manager we are all rewarded with his accomplishments."

Pictured here Nilo, Resort Retail Manager for Salamander Holdings, NV.

## Zsa Zsa Gabor still in critical condition

LOS ANGELES, California -- Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband says the actress remains in critical condition after receiving a blood transfusion.

Prince Frederic von Anhalt said that doctors are hopeful new medication will help the

93-year-old recover. She received the transfusion Friday night. The prince says his wife was able to squeeze his hand and whisper a few words.

Gabor broke her hip after she fell out of bed at her Bel-Air home.

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## Happy campers at Tierra Del Sol



Tierra del Sol has hosted three summer camps for kids, over the past few weeks, packed with tennis, golf and pool activities.

The first and second group had a marvelous time, reports Golf Pro Adam Williamson, who orchestrates the activities. The kids improved their tennis and their golf and enjoyed the open air, including the wet and wild pool session, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The camp focused on tennis in the morning with the resort's Tennis Pro, then after lunch the kids receive



golf instruction from the pros.

Pictured here the happy campers of last week.

## Spain's Catalonia on verge of banning bullfighting

MADRID, Spain (AFP) -- Bullfighting in Spain could suffer its biggest setback to date today when the local parliament in Catalonia votes on whether to ban the practice in the separatist-minded north-eastern region.

The assembly is scheduled to vote on the issue this morning after animal rights activists campaigning under the platform "Prou!" or "Enough!" in

the Catalan language, collected 180,000 signatures in Catalonia on a petition calling for the motion to be debated and voted on by the assembly.

The most recent indications are that a majority of the 135 lawmakers in the regional assembly are in favour of the motion to tighten Catalonia's animal protection law to remove an exception for bullfights from a ban on the killing

or mistreating animals in shows.

If approved Catalonia, home to Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city, would become the first region in the country outside of the Canary Islands to ban the practice and it could inspire other regions to follow its example.

Bullfighting was made illegal in the Canary Islands in 1991.

# CAR TOONS



## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



# CROSSWORD



# CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

1. Recipe instruction
5. Male gypsies
9. Opera by Bellini
14. Pierre Jean De \_\_\_\_
18. Ring a bell
19. Part of QED
20. Godly fluid
21. Sour
22. Turkestan's locale
23. Inventive middle name
24. Call \_\_\_\_ Princess
26. Religious image
27. Opera by Strauss
30. Shake, \_\_\_\_ and roll
32. Old coin of Siam
33. \_\_\_\_ gestae
34. Inhabitants: suffix
35. River to the Rhine
36. Legendary bird
38. Flaw in a coat of paint
41. Opera by Handel
47. "\_\_\_\_ Sera, Sera"
48. Shelley specialty
49. Spiral-horned creature
50. Wapiti

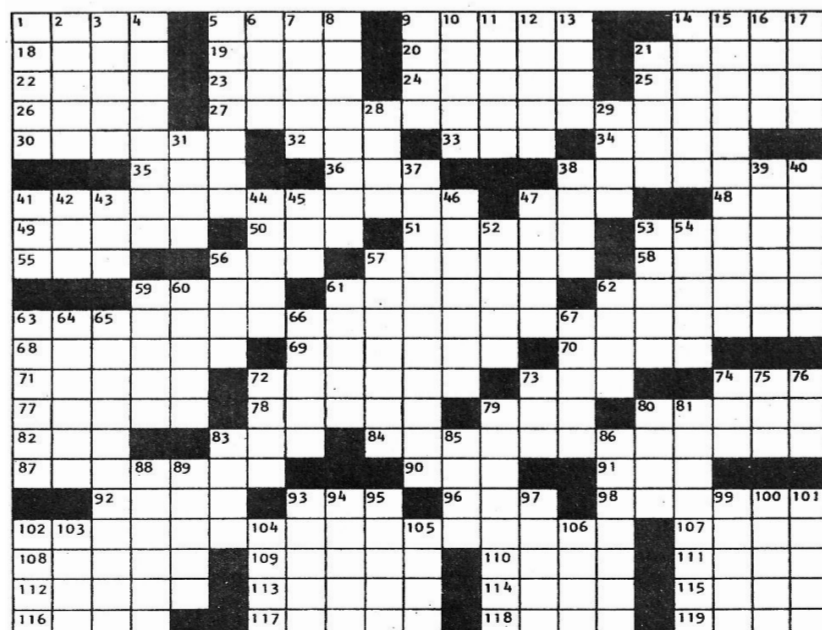
### DOWN

51. Artist Dufy
53. Piped
55. Spread hay to dry
56. \_\_\_\_ dye
57. Fundamental
58. Overweight
59. Tropical ant
61. Conceals, to a Scot
62. Threat
63. Opera by Britten
68. North Dakota Indian
69. New Jersey college
70. \_\_\_\_ Point
71. Tree of the birch family
72. Obdurate
73. Hurricane center
74. Porter
77. Forays
78. Spokes
79. Everything
80. Enthusiastic
82. \_\_\_\_ Khan
83. Hawaiian dish
84. Opera by Gershwin
87. "Inner \_\_\_\_"
90. Nothing

91. Seraglio room
92. Cease
93. F.L. Wright's gp.
96. Sheepfold sound
98. Wanton destroyer
102. Opera by Bartok, "Duke \_\_\_\_"
107. Dummy
108. Superman portrayer
109. Actress Massey
110. Avoid
111. Bauxite and cinnabar
112. Lend \_\_\_\_
113. Strikes out
114. Alley Oop's girl
115. Shade of green
116. Cures hides
117. Hebrew zithers
118. Viral infections
119. \_\_\_\_ tissue

### DOWN

1. One of a flight
2. Opera by Puccini
3. Author of "Romola"
4. Bananalike fruit
5. Library users
6. Heraldic border
7. Opera by Stravinsky
8. Sci-fi series
9. Bites
10. Artist's pigment
11. European river
12. Cenobites
13. Field
14. Symbol of justice
15. Opera by Boito
16. Buffalo's lake
17. Ski lift
21. Famed violinmaker
28. Nebraska Indians
29. Detestable
31. Praise
37. Opera by Moore
38. Wall Street optimist
39. Ancient city of Mesopotamia
40. Ransom
41. Fast plane
42. Caucho
43. Boy
44. Serang
45. Winglike part
46. Pluviosly
47. Suppress
52. Last Greek letter
53. Wades
54. Composer of "Le roi d'Yvetot"
56. Shock
57. Root vegetable
59. Summed
60. Despots
61. Witty, in the past
62. Douay prophet
63. Ground beetles
64. Spanish white wine
65. "The \_\_\_\_" (Purcell)
66. Sanctuary of \_\_\_\_ Idris
67. Dancer Tharp
72. Out of
73. English cathedral town
74. Ripen
75. Bandleader Brown
76. Bitter vetch
79. "\_\_\_\_ ordered \_\_\_\_ this ale"
80. Norse saga
81. Forsakes
83. Unadulterated, to Kipling
85. "Green Mansions" heroine
86. Nine-day prayers
88. Cunan people of Panama
89. River to the Tyrrhenian
93. Van Gogh's city
94. Image: prefix
95. Actor Ed
97. Massachusetts town
99. Column type
100. Mother of King Stephen
101. Also-ran
102. Difficult child
103. River to the Arctic
104. Opera by Verdi
105. Mama Elliot
106. Opera by Berg



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### HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital  
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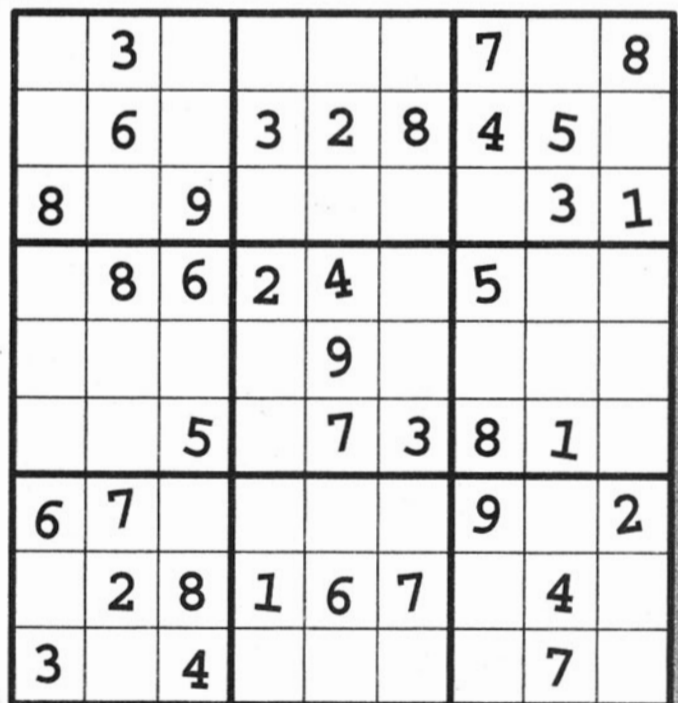
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# Sudoku



### SOLUTION

9	L	I	Z	8	6	T	S	E
S	T	E	L	9	I	8	Z	6
Z	8	6	T	E	S	I	L	9
T	I	8	E	L	9	S	6	Z
L	Z	9	S	6	8	E	I	T
E	6	S	I	T	Z	9	8	L
I	E	Z	9	S	L	6	T	8
6	S	T	8	Z	E	L	9	I
8	9	L	6	I	T	Z	E	S

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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YESTERDAY'S  
Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 31

NOT	ROMAN	STORM	SOM
ADAR	EMITE	CORNEA	TWO
POKE	FACE	THE MUSIC	RED
PRESSURES	ONME	NADINE	
NOUNS	VOTE	SEDAN	
MOONED	DRED	STRANGE	
OPTED	POOR	SOLD	MAREL
LIED	RODIN	PRAM	ERA
ONO	CAROL	ELOMBARD	AIR
REFRACTS	ARES	IRONED	
URIS	BASER	IDIE	
WICRON	PAGE	UNDERSEA	
ACH	MEISTER	SINGER	WRY
ZOO	HATR	ORION	DIOA
ENROL	ELMS	WATT	SENSE
SURINAM	RENE	STAGES	
SAVOR	CHAR	MOODS	
BELLES	LOAM	UNABASHED	
OST	NARETH	HAYTUNE	EIRE
URN	ELUDES	LAKER	AFOR
TOE	DEGAS	CHETS	TSE

## Europe clears huge US airline merger

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — Europe yesterday cleared a merger between US carriers United and Continental that will create the world's biggest airline, with the companies now racing to secure US approval.

The green light from Brussels competition enforcers has still to be matched by US anti-trust authorities, who turned down a United-US Airways deal in 2001, with backing also required from shareholders of the two companies.

Five weeks after being formally notified, the European Commission "concluded that

the transaction would not significantly impede effective competition" in Europe, where the US airlines service a combined 35 destinations.

The new airline will fly under the United Airlines name and will hold around seven percent of global airline capacity. It has a market value pegged at around 6.75 billion dollars (5.2 billion euros).

The companies hope to close the deal by the end of the year, and also yesterday announced their new line-up reporting to Jeff Smisek, Continental's current chief executive who will serve as CEO.

## How to write ad copy that is so powerful and compelling, customers are FORCED to buy --Part IV --

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed attitude.

I ended the last Tip by stating that in this Tip, we are going to go over creating "desire" for your reader to respond to your ad.

The desire portion of your ad presents the facts of your product, creates and justifies your readers' conviction, and causes them to demand your product or service.

It's so important that you present "proven facts" about your product or services.

Surveys have shown that over 50% of the people reading your ad, will tend to question its authenticity. Therefore, the more facts you can present in the ad, the more credible your offer.

Always remember when you write your ad, the more facts about your product or service you present, the more customers you'll get to respond to your ad.

People want facts as reasons and excuses for buying a product or service. How often have you felt you've been taken?

So, the desire portion of your ad has to build belief and credibility in the mind of your reader. It has to assure them of their good judgement in the decision to buy, and must furnish evidence of the benefits you've promised.

When you do this, you create in their mind a safety net in case anyone should question their decision to buy your product or service.

Individuals tend to believe in the things that appeal to their individual desires, fears, and other emotions.

People believe what they want to believe. Your reader wants to believe your ad, especially if they've read this far into it and it's up to you to support this desire that you've created.

Study your product or service and everything about it and visualize the wants and desires or your potential customers.

You could always find plenty of facts to support the buyer's reasons for buying.

But facts are just that, facts. You now have to turn these facts into benefits...how your prospective customer will benefit from purchasing your product or service.

Draw a mental picture for your potential buyer by letting them imagine owning the product or taking advantage of your service.

How about inducing them to visualize all of the benefits you've promised, and let them see themselves richer, enjoying luxury, having time to do whatever they'd like with all of

their dreams fulfilled.

This can be done in one or two sentences, or spelled out in a paragraph or more, but it's an ingredient you must include prior to closing the sale.

The mental imagery created by the ad is the element included in all successes that actually make the sale for you.

Don't try to sell anything without it.

Just take a moment and think about your own experiences whenever you've purchased something.

Every one of the fundamentals in the master formula (AIDA) is necessary.

Those individuals who are easy to sell may perhaps be sold even if some of these factors are left out.

But why take the chance. It's wiser to plan your advertisement so that it will have a powerful impact upon those who are the "Hardest to Sell"

Unlike face-to-face selling, you cannot in printed advertising come to a trial close in order to see if those who are easier to sell will buy without further persuasion.

Always assume that you are talking to the hardest ones.

Well, that's it for this Tip. In the next Tip, I'll give you the secret for obtaining the order.

To your success,

Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597

Email: ken@kenvarga.com

Website: www.kenvarga.com

...helping businesses increase customer acquisition by up to 32.7% in as little as 3 to 6 months, and increase customer retention by up to 90%.

## Air France-KLM returns to profit, sees break-even this year

PARIS, France (AFP) — Air France-KLM said yesterday it returned to profit in its first quarter and forecast a break-even operating performance for its current year to March 2011, excluding the impact of April flight chaos caused by the Iceland volcano dust cloud.

The airline reported a net profit of 736 million euros (950 million dollars) for the three months to June, more than reversing a year-earlier loss of 426 million euros

when the global slump savaged the airline industry.

Sales rose 10.7 percent to 5.72 billion euros, it said, adding that the disruption of flights in April masked a pick-up in passenger numbers, which rose more than four percent in May and June alone but were down 2.3 percent for the quarter as a whole.

Air France-KLM said it had an operating loss of 132 million euros in the three months, an improvement

over the year-earlier shortfall of 496 million euros.

If the April loss of flights were excluded, the company made an operating profit of 28 million euros in the period, it added.

For its current year, the airline said it expected to break-even at the operating level, excluding the impact of the April disruption.

In the year to March 2010, the company sustained an operating loss of 1.28 billion euros.

## Great steaks are a family tradition at El Gaucho Restaurant



Aruba's longest established and most popular Argentinean steakhouse, El Gaucho, is still going strong after 33 successful years. Two-time winner of the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, the restaurant proudly displays the numerous accolades it has received from other such notable wine and food societies as Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, as well as coveted awards for excellence such as the Worldwide Marketing Organization of Mexico, Golden Trophy for Quality Award of Excellence from France, Arch of Europe for Quality from Business Initiative Directions of Germany and International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry from Spain.

Recognized around the world for its quality of service and cuisine, El Gaucho's heartiest applause comes from its loyal clientele, who recommend the restaurant to friends and family with complete confidence in their satisfaction.

When asking a frequent is-

land visitor where they go for a great steak, you will find most frequently their #1 choice will be The Gaucho Steak; a generous portion of prime tenderloin, charcoal-grilled to perfection. El Gaucho Restaurant also boasts the biggest shishkebab in the Caribbean, as well as a varied menu of fresh local fish and seafood, and everyone's favorite cut of steak and ribs.

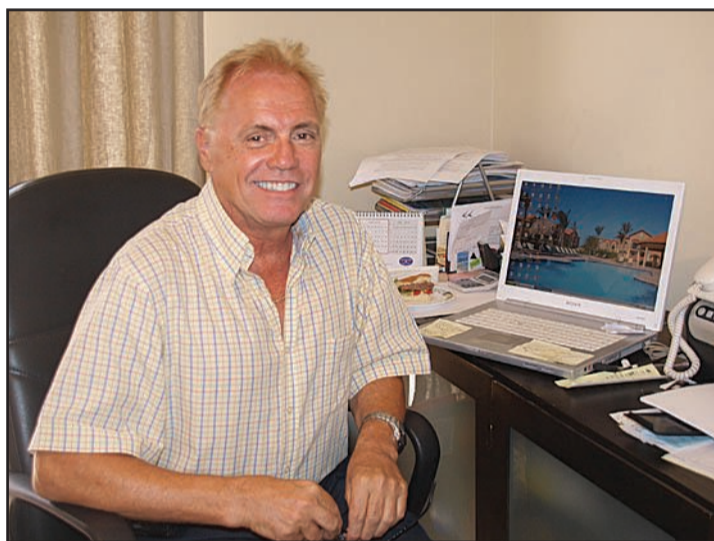
2009 has brought some welcome changes; an expanded food and wine menu and the restaurant is now open on Sundays. A variety of lamb and veal dishes now garnish the menu, as well as a hearty 20-oz rib eye to satisfy your appetite.

El Gaucho Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m.. Visit their online guestbook at [www.elgaucho-aruba.com](http://www.elgaucho-aruba.com), and peruse the glorious praise their receive from their devoted fans, as well as the updated menu.

## A letter to the editor about Gold Coast Aruba



Main entrance of Gold Coast



Ed Malone

Good day,

My husband and I are very excited about having just made a down payment on the vacation home on Aruba we have always dreamed of, and we wanted to share our thoughts with others who may be considering taking this step. We selected a property at Gold Coast Aruba for many reasons, and are writing you because our interest came from an ad we saw in your paper.

We have visited Aruba on several occasions and have always been sorry to leave. We previously owned a second home at the Jersey Shore, and it gave us great enjoyment, but really only a few months of the year. For less, we can now count on wonderful weather in our vacation home at any time. This was a major attraction.

We were first attracted to the design of Gold Coast, the obvious pride the developers had in their project, and their understanding of all our concerns about owning a property far from home, which they took great pains to address.

It wasn't only the 24-hour security and the beautiful layout of the homes and community but also the expense and

effort the management was willing to take on to see that when we arrive on Aruba to occupy our new home, we can still retain the mind set of being on vacation. We can rest easy from all the typical worries of being a homeowner. We chatted with Ed Malone, who is in charge of owner's services and we remember from the Americana Resort. He is a very capable and knowledgeable manager. During our time with him we observed how dedicated he is to seeing to all the needs of his community.

We are looking forward to enjoying time on Aruba with our daughters and grandchildren; so we found the services that provide housekeepers and babysitters particularly appealing. Also, they pick up and drop off at the airport, shop for us so our cupboards and refrigerators will be stocked when we arrive, and even offered a chef to come and cook for us in our home! We were truly amazed at the range of services they offer, just as you would expect from a resort, and well beyond.

Of course, these are not the reasons to decide to purchase a home, but we were so im-

pressed with the physical aspects of Gold Coast already, the services were likely a deciding factor. We found their Manchbo model town house perfect for our needs, though we were very impressed with their villas and the style and informal elegance of décor offered by their interior decorator. I love the giant walk in closets in the master bedroom, they must have surely had a women's input when they added those!

Before making our final decision we spoke to some people we know on Aruba, mentioning that the kitchens at Gold Coast are done by Alno and the bathrooms by Banjolux, local vendors. They told us they are absolutely top-notch, considered two of the most exclusive quality vendors for these things on Aruba. We appreciate they are not mass produced, as well as the sturdy construction we observed in the rest of the homes. My husband noticed he could not hear us walking around while I was touring the bedrooms and he was sitting down in the living room.

We knew we wanted to purchase another home as a getaway and possible retirement residence for some time, but were dithering because we just couldn't decide if we really wanted to go back to the shore, and Gold Coast provided us with the perfect solution. We love Aruba, and the community offered us the peace of mind we needed to decide to purchase a home here. We just wanted others to know this option is now available and worth investigating.

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## DiCaprio's 'Inception' pounds 'Salt' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Inception," the sci-fi thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio, topped the North American box office for a second straight weekend, holding off a challenge by Angelina Jolie's spy action film "Salt," final receipts showed at the beginning of this week.

The mind-warp summer blockbuster -- one of only a handful of original, non-sequel movies to gain that title this year -- hauled in 42.7 million dollars in receipts for the weekend, for a total 142.9 million in its 10 days of release, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

With "The Dark Knight" director Christopher Nolan at the helm, the flick about a thief who specializes in infiltrating dreams and stealing thoughts has wowed critics with its complex science fiction concepts.

"Inception" cut down on the ticket intake for the timely "Salt," which took second spot with 36 million dollars in its debut weekend.

Jolie, Hollywood's biggest female action flick superstar, plays captivating CIA agent Evelyn Salt, who is accused of being a Russian spy and must prove her innocence while on the run.

3-D animated film "Despicable Me" slipped one spot to third, with 23.7 million dollars in receipts.

The film from Universal Pictures, starring Steve Carell as the voice of Gru, a villain bent on snatching the moon, has earned a surprise total of 161.3 million dollars in its three weeks of release.

"The Sorcerer's Apprentice" took fourth place with 9.7 million dollars, for the Nicholas Cage-starring story of a magician battling evil alongside his hapless pupil.

"Toy Story 3" held the fifth spot with 8.9 million dollars in receipts and a six-week total of 379.4 million dollars.

Debuting in sixth was Fox's "Ramona and Beezus," a dramedy about the lives of two young sisters based on the beloved series of children's books by author Beverly Cleary. It pulled in 7.8 million dollars.

Seventh place was claimed by "Grownups," the Adam Sandler and Chris Rock comedy about a reunion of high school friends, which earned 7.4 million dollars in its fifth week.

A previous top earner, vampire romance "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" fell to eighth place with 7.2 million dollars,

but still enjoyed its 279.8-million-dollar feeding from its four weeks in theaters.

"The Last Airbender," director M. Night Shyamalan's cinematic take on the popular "Avatar" television cartoon series about beings endowed with powers to control air, earth, water and fire, came in ninth with 4.2 million dollars.

## Modernity catching up with barefoot Indonesian tribe



A Baduy tribeswoman descends a staircase at the tribe's settlement situated in a forest in Ciboleger, West Java province.

CIBOLEGER (AFP) - The government offered them electricity and schools, but they refused. The Baduy people prefer to walk barefoot on their traditional lands on Indonesia's Java island.

Progress? Technology? Baduy villager Sapri will have none of it.

"We have a quiet and harmonious life, close to nature. We've got everything we need," he told AFP with a broad smile.

The 38-year-old father-of-seven cares little for the outside world. Global financial turmoil matters not a jot to him, and the World Cup barely registered.

For Sapri, the world stops at the border of "Baduy country", 5,000 hectares (12,360 acres) of tropical forest reserve in the heart of Java, one

of the most crowded islands on Earth.

His people number close to 12,000 and live semi-subsistent lifestyles in about 30 villages. A typical Baduy home is made of bamboo and palm leaves, and has no windows. Food is prepared on wood fires and eaten on the floor. Furniture, electrical equipment and modern utensils are prohibited.

"We've respected these very strict rules for centuries," said village chief Djaro Dainah, who has been appointed to a 14-year tenure as the tribe's chief liaison officer with the outside world.

But even Dainah admits the tribe cannot remain completely impervious to the encroachment of modernity.

"The government has offered us electricity but we've

refused it because we don't want progress to come too fast. We want to protect our culture, but sooner or later..."

The Baduy's origins are a mystery. Some say they could be descendants of a Hindu kingdom who found refuge in the mountains as Islam spread across most of Indonesia in the 15th century.

The purest are the 500 Urang Tangtu, the "Inner Baduy" who live in three villages without any contact with foreigners. Anyone who doesn't obey the rules is shunned and joins the "Orang Panamping", the "Outside Baduy".

Clad in black or dark blue, the "Outside Baduy" are relatively more liberal but they also live austere and have minimal contact with non-Baduy despite growing numbers of tourists visiting the reserve.

Both groups turn their backs on the trappings of modernity; they wash in the river, they don't use soap and children don't attend school.

But octogenarian tribesman Cayut said he could see change coming even though he had never left his village except to work in the surrounding rice paddies.

"Change has been very fast in recent years. We've been able to keep our culture

but it's very difficult," he said.

It is increasingly common for the deep stillness of the forest to be broken by the ringing of a mobile phone or the crackle of a radio.

"This wouldn't have been accepted years ago," said Samani, who has a phone to help him manage his cloves business.

"It's hard to keep a balance between our personal needs and our traditions. It's very difficult to keep the rules of our ancestors which date from centuries back. But it's our heritage."

The 40-year-old said he educated his four children himself, focusing on "the basics" like counting, some writing and reading.

"But the most important thing is to teach them how to farm, how to make brown sugar... They have to learn skills to support themselves in the future," he added.

Fifty-year-old villager Sakri said that despite the growing pressures from the world of steel and glass beyond the forest, "our beliefs and our culture are strong".

"When I go outside to see the world, I don't change my mind and don't want to live there. We have a basic life that suits us," he said.

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# London ahead of schedule for 2012 Games



British Olympic cyclist Chris Hoy rides around a temporary track in the Velodrome arena of the London 2012 Olympic site in Stratford, east London

LONDON (AFP) - London will be ready a year ahead of schedule to stage the 2012 Olympics, officials said on Tuesday, as Olympic greats gave the Games venues a test run two years to the day before the festivities open.

The head of the London organising committee, former Olympic champion Sebastian Coe, told reporters on a tour of the capital's newest stadiums that he was "really pleased" with the progress of the construction, saying it was within budget and well ahead of schedule.

"We have a stadium that is structurally pretty complete. The seats are going in and it will be finished by next year," he said.

London Mayor Boris Johnson joked that the organisers were so far ahead of the timetable that: "The really smart thing for us to do as a nation would be to hold a snap Olympics which would catch our rivals napping."

Rather than the regular attempt to outdo the previous Games, the 2012 chiefs are set on building a lasting sporting legacy for Britain and regenerating one of the most deprived parts of the capital.

So while the venues may be less spectacular than Beijing 2008, and the fireworks fewer, London 2012 hopes to leave lasting urban infrastructure and housing rarely created by sports events.

"In the long term, what we want is to turn this area of east London into a place where people are going to want to come and live and make their careers in for generations," Johnson told reporters, accompanying him and the other officials on a trip across the city.

Organisers feel they are on

track to produce a well-run Games on a strict budget, in keeping with the tough economic times.

So they are keen to show off how the project is running to schedule as they hit the two-year milestone.

To show how far the preparations have come, US athletics hero Michael Johnson, who boasts four sprint gold medals from three Games, joined with a party of schoolchildren to test out a temporary track in the 80,000-capacity Olympic Stadium.

Its distinctive white crossed-girder architecture is well on the way to completion and the seats are already being fitted.

And British cyclist Chris Hoy, who won three golds in Beijing, was the first to test out the new Velopark, which he helped design.

"We're not just looking at this as a competition venue. You're looking at the legacy beyond London. You can train here in a lovely environment, not in some dingy dark velodrome," he told reporters.

As he cycled round he was being cheered by construction workers still finishing the venue.

"Just hearing the cheers from the construction work-

ers you can imagine what it's going to be like filled to the rafters for an Olympic final," he said.

Construction is currently well within the event's budget of 9.3 billion pounds (11 billion euros, 14.2 billion dollars). The figure includes 1.2 billion pounds of a contingency fund, which has yet to be used.

Away from the Olympic Park on Tuesday, thousands of people were expected at London's main Trafalgar Square for a day of 2012-themed interactive games and celebrity appearances, plus a "3D Future Zone" with six special pods allowing people to watch Olympic footage in high definition.

The square was the scene of wild celebrations in July 2005, when London edged out Paris for the right to host the Games.

London Mayor Johnson was using the two-year milestone to launch an appeal for 70,000 people to volunteer at the Games as everything from city guides to press officers.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is the great people of this country, with their warm welcome and 'can-do' attitude, on whom the success of our Games will depend," he said.

## Blanc still prepared to pick Ribery, Benzema

PARIS (AFP) - New France coach Laurent Blanc says he is ready to call up Franck Ribery and Karim Benzema, despite an ongoing investigation into reports they had sex with an under-age prostitute.

The allegations led to France's Minister for Health and Sport Roselyne Bachelot deeming they should not be selected for the national side

pending the outcome of the case.

Bayern Munich winger Ribery, who could face three years in prison if convicted, has admitted having sex with Zahia Dehar but denies knowing the call girl was under 18 at the time.

Real Madrid striker Benzema faces the same charge, which he also denies.

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## Garza tosses Rays' first no-hitter



Pitcher Matt Garza #22 of the Tampa Bay Rays gets a game ball from pitcher Rafael Soriano #29

ST. PETERSBURG (AFP) - Tampa Bay Ray pitcher Matt Garza threw the first no-hitter in franchise history and the fifth in the major leagues this season with a 5-0 blanking of Detroit on Monday.

The 26-year-old Garza faced 27 batters in nine innings of work Monday for the Rays who have been on the wrong end of some strong pitching this season. He allowed a second-inning walk.

"I don't care who it came from, we needed one," said Garza. "We've been on the wrong end of way too many of those in the last year. We've seen three of those and we've seen some almost happen. We needed one just for our own confidence."

The Rays have been held hitless three times since last July, including a pair of perfect games.

This is the first time there have been at least five no-hitters in a season in 19 years. There were seven no-hitters in the 1991 Major League Baseball season.

Garza posted his 11th win of the season to open a four-game home stand at the Rays'

Tropicana Field.

"It was one of those days where everything lined up," Garza said. "The defense made great plays. I really can't say enough about them."

Besides walking one, Garza fanned a half dozen Tigers. Brennan Boesch was the only baserunner in the second inning for Detroit. Boesch got out on an inning-ending double play.

Tampa Bay was the victim of two no-hitters earlier this season. They were no-hit May 9 by Oakland's Dallas Braden and June 25 by Arizona's Edwin Jackson.

The San Diego Padres and New York Mets are the lone MLB teams not have not thrown a no-hitter.

The Mets joined the league in 1962 and the Padres in 1969. The Rays came into being in 1998.


Garza's teammates mobbed him near the mound after a performance.

"That ninth inning," Garza said, "I kept telling myself, 'Just finish it, just finish it, just battle, battle. If it's meant to happen, it's going to happen.'"

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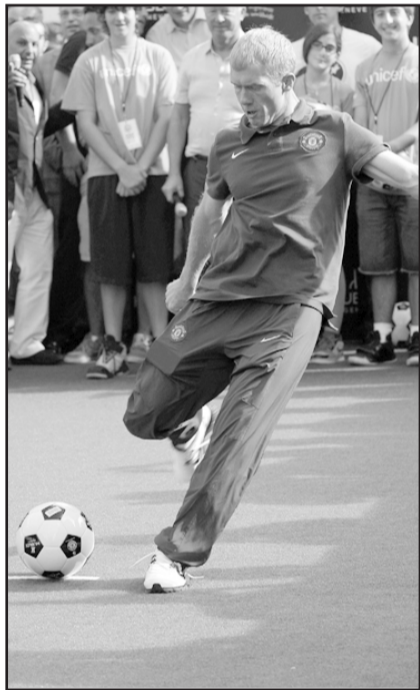


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## Scholes admits World Cup regret



**Manchester United player Paul Scholes**

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Manchester United's Paul Scholes has admitted that he may have made a mistake by not taking up England coach Fabio Capello's invitation to play at the World Cup.

Capello attempted to draw Scholes out of international retirement in the warm-up to South Africa 2010, but the midfielder turned down the offer.

England went out at the second-round stage, and Scholes said: "A couple of weeks into it, I thought I maybe should have gone. I am not saying I would have made a difference. I am saying I might have made the wrong decision."

Scholes has made 66 appearances for the national side and scored 14 goals, but has not featured since retiring from international football in 2004.

The 35-year-old midfielder is now determined to win the Premier League title back from Chelsea.

Scholes, 35, is building up his fitness on United's North American tour and looks set to get another run-out on Wednesday against the MLS All-Stars.

Like Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville, who has stayed at home because of a calf injury, Scholes concedes he is given more rest now by manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

He said: "I know that playing two or three times a week, it is not going to happen any more. So you just have to be ready when needed."

"It is accepted, definitely, given there are that many games and at our age we have to be ready when the manager needs us."

"You train every day and I did not miss a day's training last season, which was good. I managed to avoid injury."

"When you are at a club like this you have to be capable of doing that, especially like last season when we had that many injuries."

United had to be content with the League Cup last year after finishing runners-up to Chelsea and exiting the Champions League at the quarter-final stage when they lost to Bayern Munich.

They finished one point off the pace and Scholes reflected on a spell in December when a number of defenders were sidelined at the same time.

He said: "We didn't win what we wanted to but were not that far off. You do not want to use excuses but the injuries we had were shocking, really."

"Hopefully most of us can stay fit this year and hopefully we can go one step further than last season."

## Relief a hot commodity as Deadline looms

*Acquiring bullpen help a challenge but there are some available*

This is the no-sleep, morale-testing, gut-wrenching, mind-bending week for general managers of playoff-driven teams. And as is the case pretty much every year, it's acquiring reliable relief pitching that seems to be the biggest challenge of all.

Because while fans may believe their teams are merely a bullpen piece or two away from being legitimate postseason contenders, almost everyone within reach of the playoffs is looking for solid relievers. And the fact that relief pitchers -- perhaps more so than any other type of Major Leaguer -- are an unpredictable breed from year to year means that out-of-the-running teams pretty much need to be blown away to move their few premier ones.

Have doubts about the im-

portance of a reliable bullpen? Take note of the fact that of the top 10 teams in the Majors based on relief-pitcher ERA, nine are within five games of a playoff spot.

That's why most top-tier clubs -- the Red Sox, Yankees, Phillies, Dodgers, Reds and Braves, to name a few -- seek even more heading into the non-waiver Trade Deadline, which is Saturday at 4 p.m. ET, even though this year has been described by many as one of the toughest in which to acquire solid bullpen help.

"There's not a lot available on the market," said Reds general manager Walt Jocketty, who recently signed Russ Springer -- a 41-year-old who hasn't pitched in the Majors this year -- and Jason Isringhausen -- out for more than one calendar year and coming off Tommy John surgery -- to Minor League contracts, and is still looking for

even more help for his 'pen.

But there is some help out there. Thank goodness for a team like the Blue Jays, who have reportedly made three late-inning relievers available in Kevin Gregg, Scott Downs and Jason Frasor.

"We are continuing to explore things with clubs and talk about ideas," Toronto GM Alex Anthopoulos said while speaking in generalities recently. "Maybe there are ways we can get involved in three-way and four-way [trades]. There is still a lot of work to be done with our club, and we are going to try and find ways to improve it."

The Indians, Marlins, Orioles, Royals, Mariners, D-backs and Pirates, among others, could also make some of their relievers available. And, remember, several relief pitchers could also pass through waivers unclaimed, meaning they could be acquired after the Deadline.

## 'Cesc Fabregas will stay at Arsenal' confesses Barcelona's Andres Iniesta

Arsenal skipper Cesc Fabregas is set to stay at the Emirates this season according to his Spanish team-mate Andres Iniesta.

La Liga champions Barcelona have been linked with the tenacious central midfielder all summer but are now resigned to missing out on their top transfer target and will reignite their interest next year.

Barca ace Iniesta, who led his country to World Cup glory with the winning goal against Holland in the final, has spoken to Fabregas and admits his international team-mate wants one more campaign at the Emirates to have

a final crack at winning the Premier League.

"Cesc [Fabregas] wants to be with us, but he told me how close the Arsenal fans are to his heart," Iniesta told reporters.

"He is a special player and I hope he wins the title at Arsenal this season. For them to win Cesc will have to stay fit and injury-free, but he deserves to finish with a title. For all the work and effort he has put in at Arsenal it would be a shame if it was all fruitless."

"I have seen time after time Lionel Messi win games for Barcelona when the rest of the team have not been on

form and Cesc can do that for Arsenal this season."

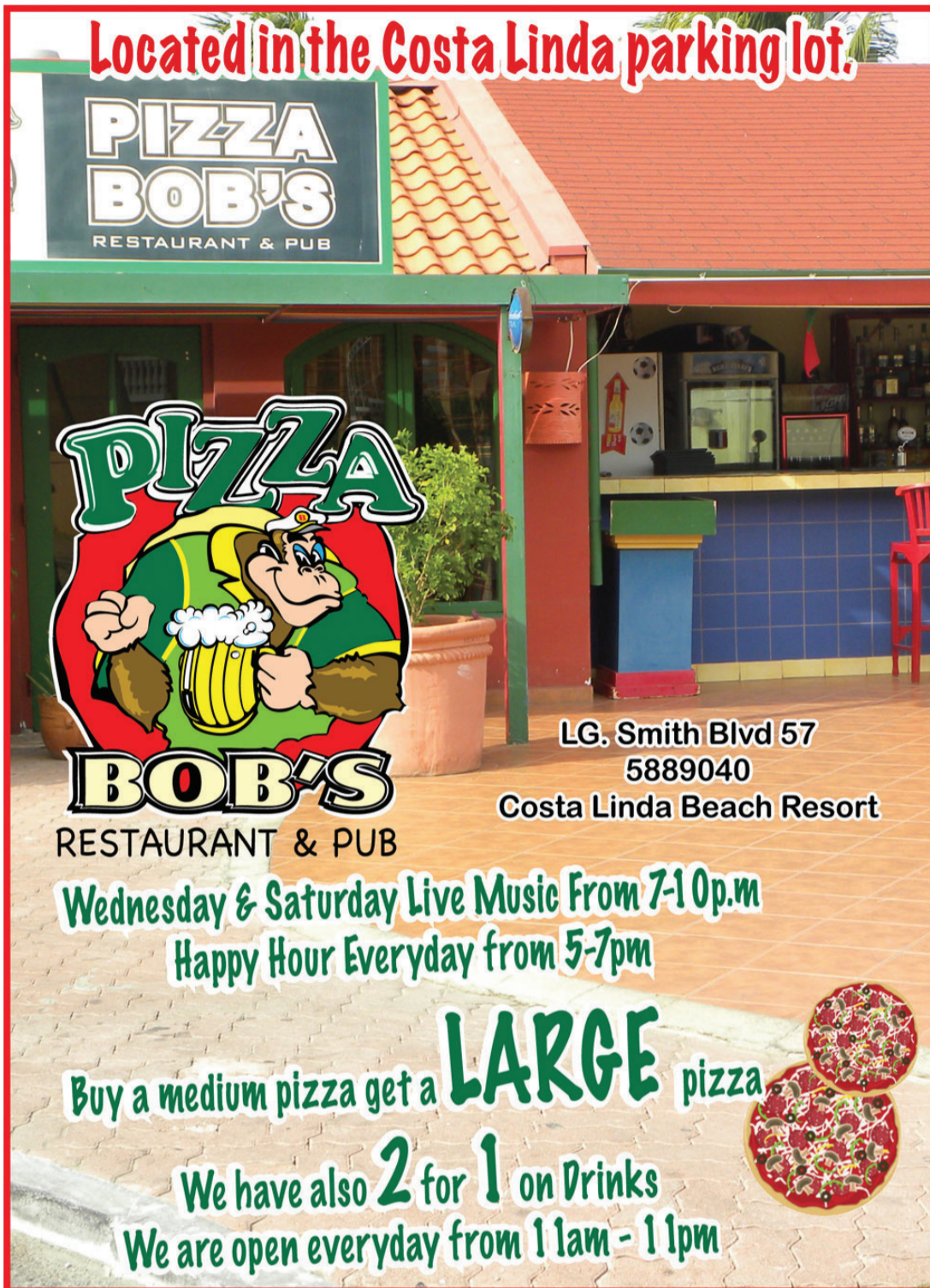
Iniesta, who along with several other Barcelona stars have made no secret of their desire to see Fabregas return to his boyhood club, has made it clear he hopes to link up with the Arsenal captain next season.

And Iniesta hopes that Fabregas fulfills his ambition in England next May and finally gets his hands on the coveted Premier League title.

"Arsenal are not as strong as Chelsea. But they try to play football the way it was intended to be played and that should be rewarded," he added.

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## Historic 100m for partially sighted Smyth

BARCELONA (AFP) - Ireland's Jason Smyth on Tuesday became the first paralympic athlete to compete in the European Athletics Championships and topped off his achievement by qualifying for the 100 metres semi-finals.

The 23-year-old, who is partially sighted, timed 10.43sec to place fourth in his heat and was exuberant afterwards.

"Half the battle in achieving your goals is just believing you can do it," he enthused.

"The quality of my vision is about 10 percent compared to that of a person with full sight," he told the European Athletics Association.

Smyth suffers from Stargardt Disease, a genetically

inherited degeneration that causes progressive loss of vision and can lead to virtual blindness.

Smyth won Paralympic gold in the 100m and 200m at the 2008 Beijing Games and on June 19 clocked a personal best 10.32sec over 100m in Antrim, Northern Ireland.

He now hopes to continue his run of success as far as the London Games in 2012.

"Jason, you are a credit to all your family, but your best talent is your humility not your running," his grandfather told the EAA.

"For this reason you will succeed beyond your wildest dreams. You make us all so proud that you have never lost the common touch, and your feet are firmly on the ground."

## Argentina drop Maradona as coach



BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AFP) - The Argentine Football Association (AFA) on Tuesday elected not to renew Diego Maradona's contract as national team coach, a spokesman said.

Maradona had said earlier in the week that he hoped to continue in his role but only on condition he could keep his backroom staff, including

faithful assistant Alejandro Mancuso.

Doubts had surrounded the 49-year-old's future ever since a tense meeting with AFA head Julio Grondona on Monday and newspapers had spent the day speculating on who would succeed the man who led the team to victory as star player at the 1986 World Cup.

As an inexperienced coach, Maradona's record over 18 months was less than stellar and the team only qualified for the World Cup finals by the skin of their teeth.

Although several players had spoken up for him after a run to the quarter-finals of the World Cup, where Germany proved too strong, the AFA

decided it was time to give the job to someone else.

One name in the frame to succeed him is Alejandro Sabella, who led Estudiantes to the Copa Libertadores last year.

Other potential candidates include Miguel Angel Russo (Racing Club) and Sergio Batista, currently in charge of the Argentine youth set-up and who helped steer the country to Olympic glory in the Beijing Games in 2008.

Fans reportedly have a soft spot for Carlos Bianchi, who has enjoyed success with Velez Sarsfield and Boca Juniors, but his chances are believed to be slim due to a poor relationship with Grondona.

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